

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00755 211838Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SSO-00 /013 W
-----211840Z 000044 /43

O R 211655Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8787
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 0755

E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : OEXC, SCUL, NI
SUBJ : FESTAC DEVELOPMENTS

1. GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE HAS RESULTED IN MILITARY "TAKE-OVER." LAGOS PRESS JANUARY 20 AND 21 REPORTS THAT A "FESTAC TASK FORCE" HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ADMINISTER THE SEVERAL PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS, STRAIGHTEN OUT THE PRESS ACCREDITATION MUDDLE, AND GENERALLY MAKE THINGS RUN SMOOTHER. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET CONFIRMED, THAT TICKET PRICES HAVE BEEN REDUCED AT ALL LOCATIONS FROM A MAXIMUM OF N10 NAIRA TO N5 NAIRA AND A MINIMUM OF N1.50 TO 50 KOBO. THIS IS IN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE SPARSE ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES.

2. U.S. CONTINGENT SEEMS REASONABLY WELL SETTLED WITH WATER, ELECTRICITY ETC. FUNCTIONING. RMO, CONSUL AND CAO VISITED SITE JANUARY 20 AND SURVEYED MIDICAL FACILITIES IN PARTICULAR. FOUND DISPENSARY IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF AMERICANS AND LARGER DISPENSARY NEAR VILLAGE CENTER WITH PHAMRMACY. EFFICIENCY IS UNKNOWN BUT FACILITIES APPEAR ADEQUATE FOR ROUTINE MEDICAL TREATMENT NORMALLY NECESSARY FOR A FESTIVAL SUCH AS THIS.

3. DEFINITIVE LIST OF AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS STILL NOT
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AVAILABLE. SO FAR ONLY FOUR GROUPS HAVE PERFORMED IN ONE VENUE OR THE OTHER. THEY INCLUDE: RONALD INGRAHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR AT THE NATIONAL THEATER JANUARY 18(INGRAHAM GROUP PERFORMED ONLY ONE NUMBER DUE TO LACK OF KEY TO OPEN PIANO), THE KUMBA LIBERATORS DRAMA GROUP AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM JANUARY 19, AND MILFORD GRAVES DUO AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM SPORTS COURT JANUARY '20. LOUVENIA CARROLL SINGERS SCHEDULED

TO PERFORM AT THZ NATIONAL THEATER JANUARY 20 WERE UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE PRIOR GROUP CONTINUED PERFORMANCE UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT. FOLLOWING IS MOST RECENT SCHEDULE OF AMERICAN PERFORMANCES MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY BY FESTAC EVENTS COMMITTEE:

DATE	GROUP	EVENT
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21/1/77	ROLD INGRAHAM	(SECOND PERFORMANCE) MUSIC
21/1/77	CLEOPATRA ROBINSON	DANCE
21/1/77	ELI POMARE	DANCE
23/1/77	NADI QAMAR	MUSIC
23/1/77	THE SOLEDAD PRISON POETS	DRAMA
23/1/77	WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN (WINNIE BURROWS)	DRAMA
24/1/77	HARLEM CHILDREN THEATRE (LIBERATION OF MOTHER GOOSE)	DRAMA
26/1/77	NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE (SOL JOURNEY INTO YOUTH)	DRAMA

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4. FOUR AMERICANS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE COLLOQUIUM SO FAR. THEY WERE:

DR. M. RON KARENGA, AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY.

DR. RON WALTERS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

DR. BASIL MATTHEWS, COMMUNICATIONS & ARTS, HOWARD UNIVERSITY.
DR. BERNARD BELL, ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ALL FOUR DELIVERED PAPERS JANUARY 19; A FIFTH PARTICIPANT, DR. EILEEN SOUTHERN, IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY, IS EXPECTED HERE TODAY, JANUARY 21, TO DELIVER ANOTHER PAPER. KARENGA AND WIFE COMMENTED THAT THE AMERICAN EFFORTS WERE ALL VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THE AUDIENCE AND COMPLIMENTS, APPLAUSE AND A STANDING OVATION FOLLOWED THE AMERICAN SESSION.

5. REQUEST ASAP STATUS ON POSSIBLE SECOND PLANELOAD OF
PERFORMERS AND/OR ETA PLANE TO PICK UP NAZ CONTINGENT
PRESENTLY HERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0323
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770130/aaaabaer.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d0b61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3540378
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FESTAC DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, NI, FESTAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d0b61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009